

HCS SB 941 -- YOGA TRAINING COURSES

SPONSOR: Dixon (Haahr)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill exempts yoga teacher training courses, programs, and schools from provisions regulating proprietary schools.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop a brochure that includes information on all meningococcal vaccines receiving a Category A or B recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and a recommendation that the current student or entering student receive meningococcal vaccines in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

This bill also requires all public institutions of higher education, beginning with the 2004-05 school year, to require all students who live on campus, including in sorority or fraternity residences, to have received the meningococcal vaccine no more than five years prior to enrollment and in accordance with the latest recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention unless the student has a signed statement of medical or religious exemption in his or her file.

This bill will require the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to maintain and publish on its website a list of post-secondary educational institutions meeting requirements described within the bill.

This bill contains an emergency clause for this section.

This bill establishes a standard core curriculum and a common course numbering system for lower division courses at community colleges and public four-year institutions of higher learning. The Coordinating Board of Higher Education will work in conjunction with an advisory committee, composed of representatives from community colleges and public four-year institutions, to develop a recommended core curriculum. The core curriculum must be comprised of 42 semester credit hours. All undergraduate students of the above institutions must complete the core curriculum as a requirement of graduation. Each community college and public four-year institution must adopt the 42 credit hour block. Such curriculum must include specific courses and be based on the core

curriculum recommended by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education. The Coordinating Board must also approve a common course numbering system for lower-division courses at all institutions of higher learning in the state. Community colleges and four-year institutions must include in its course listings the corresponding numbers from the common course numbering system. Students will be able to transfer credits earned under the core curriculum, as described within the bill. The Coordinating Board must also develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices each public institution of higher learning in the state and subsequently evaluate each institution. Institutions of higher education must publish in its course catalogs and on its website the evaluation policies of the Coordinating Board.

This bill also states that if the spouse of any full-time employee of a public institution of higher education incurs out-of-state travel costs that are paid for or reimbursed by the institution, then the employee will be required to file a quarterly travel report with the Missouri Ethics Commission. The commission will then publish the travel reports on its website and enable the reports to be easily searched. A travel report will also have to be filed for any such funded travel that took place during the year before this bill becomes effective.

This bill is similar to HB 2616, HB 2651, and HCS HB 2742 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that regulations meant for occupational or vocational schools should not apply to yoga teacher training programs. Many of the individuals who attend these programs are not intending to teach yoga on a full time basis, or even at all. Often their goal is to integrate what they learn about breathing or stretching into their existing careers, such as teaching or nursing. Supporters believe that the yoga teacher training programs are distinct from courses to teach employable, marketable knowledge or skills and that many of the existing regulations are not applicable to yoga teacher training.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haahr and the Yoga Alliance.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.